

What is claimed is:

1. A method of determining if a use of a particular unit is fraudulent comprising
5 the steps of,
monitoring the use of said particular unit, for a plurality of times that said unit is
used, to collect statistics concerning the use of said particular unit over a time
period having a specific length to establish a normal usage pattern for said
particular unit, said pattern being established over a plurality of uses of said unit,
10 determining if more than a predetermined deviation exists between the use of said
unit during a second period of time and said normal usage pattern,
taking a first type of action if said deviation is below a first value,
taking a second type of action if said deviation is above said first value.
- 15 2. A method for preventing unauthorized use of a particular unit comprising the
steps of,
monitoring the use of said particular unit to collect statistics to establish a normal
pattern of use of said particular unit, said pattern of use and said monitoring
covering a first period of time having a specific length and covering a plurality of
20 times said unit is used,
determining if there is more than a predetermined deviation between the use of said
particular unit and said normal pattern of use during a second period of time having
a length equal to said specific length,
taking a first type of action if said deviation is below a first value,
25 taking a second type of action if said deviation is above said first value.
3. A computerized system for preventing fraudulent use of a particular item,
first means which monitors use of said particular item to collect statistics over a first
period of time having a specific length to establish a normal pattern of use of said
30 particular item, said specific length covering a plurality of uses of said item,

second means which determines if there is more than a particular amount of deviation between use of said particular item during a second period having a length equal to said specific length and said normal pattern of use, whereby a first type of action is taken if said deviation is below a first value, and a
5 second type of action if said deviation is above said first value.

4. The system recited in claim 3 wherein said first means is a computer program,

10 5. The system recited in claim 3 wherein said second means is a computer program.

6. The method recited in claim 1 wherein said statistics are collected by a computer program.

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7. The method recited in claims 1 wherein said determining step is done by a programmed computer.

8. The method in claim 2 wherein said unauthorized use is fraudulent.

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9. The method recited in claim 2 wherein said collecting and determining are performed by a programmed digital computer.

10. A method of providing security for a particular item including,
25 monitoring use of said particular item to collect statistics over a first period of time having a particular length to establish a normal pattern of use of said particular item, said pattern covering a plurality of uses of said item,
determining if there is more than a predetermined deviation between the use of said particular item during a second period of time having a length equal to said
30 particular length and said normal pattern of use,
taking a first type of action if said deviation is below a first value,

taking a second type of action if said deviation is above said first value.